

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5205

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, EG

SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENTARY ON EGYPT REMAINS VERY TOUGH

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET MEDIA COMMENT ON EGYPT AND SADAT CONTINUES TO BE EXTREMELY TOUGH, AND CONCERNTRATES ON THE EVENTUAL ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF EGYPT'S ECONOMIC WOES AND DIPLOMATIC ISLOATION. VARIOUS COMMENTS BY MFA AND MEDIA OFFICIALS REINFORCE THIS PUBLIC LINE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (APRIL 3) CARRIES A LENGTHY COMMENTARY BY P. NADEZH DIN, ENTITLED "EGYPT: RISKY COURSE," WHICH REPEATS MANY OF THE POINTS ALREADY RAISED BY SOVIET MEDIA SINCE MARCH 14. NADEZH DIN CLAIMS THAT THE "PRESENT EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT" HAS REJECTED THE YEARS OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN  
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FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATIONS, AND HAS DEVIATED FORM THE

PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN BY NASSER FOLLOWING THE 1952 REVOLUTION. IN ADDITION, NADEZH DIN HITS HARD AT THE ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF SADAT'S POLICIES, AND EMPHASIZES THAT THE "OPEN DOOR" SERVES ONLY THE INTERESTS OF "INTERNATIONAL MONOPOLIES" AS WELL AS "WESTERN CAPITALISTS." MOREOVER, SADAT'S "NEW POLICY" GOES COUNTER TO THE INTERESTS OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, OTHER ARABS, AND THOSE SEEKING AN OVERALL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. NADEZH DIN REFUTES SADAT'S CHARGES THAT MOSCOW WAS NIGGARDLY CONCERNING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CAIRO, AND RECOUNTS SOME OF THE NUMEROUS ECONOMIC PROJECTS BUILT WITH SOVIET SUPPORT. HE ALSO STRESSES AT LENGTH THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED EGYPT FOLLOWING THE SIX-DAY WAR WHICH ENABLED CAIRO TO PERFORM AS IT DID IN 1973. IN MOCK ASTONISHMENT, NADEZH DIN ASKS RHETORICALLY WHY ANYONE IN EGYPT WOULD EXPECT THE U.S. TO TURN AWAY FROM ISRAEL IN SUPPORT OF EGYPT, AND ALSO WHY ANYONE WOULD EXPECT THE U.S. TO END UP ON BOTH THE ISRAELI AND ARAB SIDES. ON SOVIET POLICY, NADEZH DIN CONCLUDES THAT MOSCOW WILL SEEK TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH ALL ARABS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR "JUST STRUGGLE" AGAINST "IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM," AND WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK A RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT ON A "JUST POLITICAL BASIS."

3. IZVESTIYA (APRIL 3) CARRIES ANOTHER LENGTHY EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "ON AN ERRONEOUS PATH," BY V. KUDRYAVTSEV, WHO WAS APPARENTLY WRITING FROM THE SAME OUTLINE AS NADEZH DIN. KUDRYAVTSEV, HOWEVER, ACCUSES FALMUY BY NAME (ALONG WITH SADAT, OF COURSE) OF ATTEMPTING "TO DISTORT" THE POLICY OF THE SOVIET UNION TOWARD EGYPT. IN ADDITION, KUDRYAVTSEV CONCENTRATES A BIT MORE OF HIS ATTENTION ON THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF SADAT'S "DEVIATION" FROM PREVIOUS POLICIES, AND, IN THIS REGARD, STRIKES SOME GLANCING BLOWS AT THE "REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES" OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE FEDERATION OF ARAB EMIRATES FOR THEIR ALLEGED ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF SADAT. KUDRYAVTSEV IS ALSO SOMEWHAT HARDER ON THE U.S. FOR ITS OSTENSIBLE MACHINATIONS, BUT HE STILL CITES THE SAME SOURCES FOR HIS EVIDENCE (THE NYT, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, ETC.). FOLLOWING THE

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STANDARD CHARGE THAT SADAT'S ACTIONS SERVE THE "ENEMIES OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARAB PEOPLE," KUDRYAVTSEV CONCLUDES THAT THE SOVIET UNION, AS STATED IN ITS DECLARATION GIVEN TO CAIRO, WILL CONTINUE "TO SUPPORT THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE," ETC., ETC.

4. THE WEEKLY NEWS JOURNAL "NEW TIMES" (APRIL 2) ALSO CONTAINS A LENGTHY ARTICLE, CALLED "CAIRO-MOSCOW: FACTS,

AND ONLY FACTS," WHICH HAS LITTLE NEW TO OFFER, BUT WHICH IS REASONABLY TOUGH ON WHAT IS SEEN AS THE U.S. HAND BEHIND SADAT'S POLICY DECISIONS.

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THESE VARIOUS ARTICLES CONTAIN LITTLE THAT HAS NOT APPEARED BEFORE IN THE SOVIET MEDIA, THE SHEER VOLUME OF COMMENT ON EGYPT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HEAVY. THE GENERAL THRUST, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BE ALONG THE LINES THAT SADAT'S PURSUIT OF "DEVIATIONIST" ECONOMIC POLICIES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS ISOLATION IN THE ARAB WORLD, WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO HIS REMOVAL, AND, BY IMPLICATION, EGYPT'S RETURN TO THE FOLD. IN THIS REGARD, SOVIET MFA USA DIVISION COUNSELOR SOKOLOV RECENTLY REMARKED TO EMBOFF THAT SUCH A PORTRAYAL OF SOVIET POLICY "WAS PRETTY PRAGMATIC, AND ACCURATE" ; HE ALSO IMPLIED STRONGLY THAT HIS DIVISION HAD SOMETHING TO DO IN OBTAINING THE VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE U.S. IN MOSCOW'S MARCH 31 STATEMENT TO CAIRO. IN ADDITION, THE PRAVDA FOREIGN EDITOR IN CHARGE OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, SERGEI VISHNEVSKIY (WHO CLAIMED HE WAS A CUB REPORTER DURING THE 1956 SUEZ WAR), ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THAT EGYPT'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND SADAT'S INABILITY TO SOLVE THEM WITH HIS PRESENT POLICIES, WILL LEAD TO THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

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